

REMARKS

5 In response to the Examiner's Action mailed on January 31, 2005, the Specification, the Abstract and claims 1, 3-16, 18-23, and 25-26 are amended. The applicant hereby respectfully requests that the patent application be reconsidered.

10 An item-by-item response to Examiner's objections or rejections is provided in the followings:

1. *Objection to Specification*

15 The Examiner objects to the disclosure because of the informalities on page 5, page 6 and page 7.

In response to the objection, the specification is amended and the informalities are corrected.

20 The Examiner further objects to the ABSTRACT because it exceeds more than 150 words. Currently, the Abstract contains 172 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited Correction is required. See MIPEP § 608.01(b).

25 In response to the objection, the ABSTRACT is amended and the amended ABSTRACT is now less than 150 words.

2. *Claim Objection*

30 The Examiner further objects to the claim 10 because of the

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informalities in claim 10.

In response to the objection, claim 10 is amended and the informalities in claim 10 are corrected.

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3. Claim Rejections - 35 USC112

The Examiner rejects claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejects claim 26 because there is no antecedent basis for "said step of unlocking".

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In response to the rejection, claim 26 is amended.

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5. Claim Rejections - 35 USC102

The Examiner rejects Claims 11 to 14 as being anticipated by Martens (U. S. Patent No. 3,858,280). According to the Examiner, Martens ('280) discloses a security tag comprising: a tag body (10); an attaching means (14) for attaching said tag body to an article; and a locking means (balls 44, 46, 106) for releasably preventing said attaching means from being removed from said article wherein said locking means is provided for mechanically (via 60) or magnetically (via 120) released said attaching means for detaching said tag body from said article.

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In response to the rejection, claims 1, 3-16, 18-23, and 25-26 are amended. The amended claim 11 is directed to a new and unobvious invention in comparison to the Fasten clip disclosed by Martens. Specifically, in the amended claim 13, the invention is amended

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to direct to a security tag comprising an attaching means for attaching said tag to a protected article that further includes:

5 a locking means for locking said attaching means for releasably preventing said attaching means from being removed from said protected article wherein said locking means is provided to be unlocked for releasing said attaching means from said tag by one of at two different kinds of unlocking means **wherein each of said two kinds of unlocking means applying at least two different kinds of forces along**
10 **at least two different directions to said locking means.**

In a amended claim 14, the invention is further directed to a security tag:

15 said locking means is provided to be unlocked by a mechanical unlocking means **applying a rotational force along a traversal direction** and a magnetic unlocking means **applying a magnetic force along a vertical direction to said locking means.**

20 Compared to Martens, the amended claims are now directed to different and security tags that are new and not obvious over Martens. Specifically, Martens applies both the *mechanical and the magnetic force as linear force along a same vertical direction* as that shown in Figs. 5 and 6 and described in the detail descriptions from line 14 on column 4 to line
25 44 column 5 when applies the tools 60 or 120 shown in Figs. 5 and 6 respectively. The inventions as now directed by the amended claims are therefore different, novel, non-obvious and patentable.

With the amended Specification and claims and the reasons provided above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the Patent Application as amended now be allowed.

5 Respectfully submitted
Hua J. Xue

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bo-In Lin', written over a horizontal line.

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